

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 112543

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ORIGIN OPIC-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 COME-00 /036 R

DRAFTED BY OPIC/F BDUFFY

APPROVED BY EB/IFD/ OIA:RJSMITH

OPIC/F:PCOUNTS

EBIFD/OIA:DHSTEBBING

OPIC/ID:JGURR

ARA/EP:WCLARKE (INFO)

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R 081809Z MAY 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

UNCLAS STATE 112543

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN

SUBJECT: GALAPAGOS TOURIST CORPORATION S.A.

1. OPIC HAS RECEIVED A PRELIMINARY APPLICATION FROM GALAPAGOS TOURIST CORPORATION S.A. TO FINANCE THE PURCHASE AND REFURBISHING OF A 40 BERTH YACHT TO EXPAND CRUISE FACILITIES IN GALAPAGOS ISLANDS.

2. A CRITICAL PART OF ANALYSIS INVOLVES INVESTIGATION OF METROPOLITAN TOURING CO., S.A. WHICH OPERATED A SIMILAR VESSEL, THE "FLORIANA" WITH 60 BERTHS WHICH SANK AND WAS LOST IN SEPTEMBER 1975. THE PURCHASE OF A NEW VESSEL BY GALAPAGOS TOURIST CORPORATION WOULD REPLACE THIS LOSS OF TWENTY FIVE PERCENT OF CRUISE SHIP CAPACITY IN THE ISLANDS.

3. OPIC HAS RECEIVED INFORMATION WHICH INDICATES THAT METROPOLITAN TOURING MAY CONTROL ACCESS TO FUEL FACILITIES,
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PAGE 02 STATE 112543

FOOD, AND AIR TRANSPORT ON THE ISLANDS. SUCH CONTROL AND

METROPOLITAN TOURINGS SUPPOSED CONTACTS WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS MAY ADVERSELY AFFECT COMPETITIVE POSITION OF GALAPAGOS TOURIST CORPORATION. ANY INFORMATION ON THIS POSSIBILITY WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL IN MAKING OUR DECISION.

4. OPIC ALSO REQUESTS ANY AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON MICHAEL GORDON, OWNER OF GALAPAGOS TOURIST CORPORATION AND ANY COMMENTS FROM EMBASSY OR CONSULATE ON THE PROJECT. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOURISM, TRANSACTION CHECKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE112543
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: F BDUFFY
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760179-0114
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760575/aaaacmsi.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN OPIC
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: schwenja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUN 2004 by wolfsd>; APPROVED <21 SEP 2004 by schwenja>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GALAPAGOS TOURIST CORPORATION S.A.
TAGS: EFIN, OPIC, GALAPAGOS TOURIST CORP SA
To: QUITO GUAYAQUIL
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006